(d) if so, by when both the domestic and international services are likely to be make available during night time from Visakhapatnam Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Provision of Night Landing Facilities and other essential Visual and Navigation Aids, Solar Powered Obstructions Lights on identified hills, DVOR and Instrument Landing System at Visakhapatnam has been completed so as to permit night operations of aircraft at Visakhapatnam Airport. ATC services at this airport are operated by the Indian Navy and the technical manpower for airport operations is required to be provided by Navy as per their requirements.

(c) and (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation has conveyed no objection for operationalsation of night landing facilities on 22.2.2008 subject to certain conditions.

Delay in delivery of aircrafts by Boeing

492. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has purchased Boeing 777-200 LR and Boeing 777-300 ERs from Boeing company;

(b) if so, the details of the delivery schedules;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Boeing company is not delivering the aircrafts as per schedule; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delays of delivering of the aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The erstwhile Air India had placed an order for 8 B777-200LR and 15 B777-300ER aircraft from Boeing company. Two B777-200 LR have been received in July, 2007 and one each in August, 2007, December, 2007 and February, 2008. Two, B 777-300 ERs have been received in October, 2007 and one in December, 2007.

(c) and (d) There have been some delay in the delivery schedule of the initial batch of aircraft due to an inplant strike in Boeing and delay in the seat programme schedule.

Closure of Begumpet Airport

493. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Begumpet Airport, the 6th largest airport in India would be closed once the Shamsabad Airport comes into operation;

(b) if so, whether it is prudent to close an airport which has shown growth of 39 per cent in traffic revenue collections in the first 8 months of this year;

(c) whether the Begumpet Airport would be kept operational for domestic traveller keeping the popular public demand in view; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) In terms of the Concession Agreement signed between Government of

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